

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated November 29, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Claims 1-58 are pending in the application with claims 10-17, 29-36, 41-43 and 47-58 being withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objection in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 7, 24, 25 and 38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant elects not to rewrite these claims in independent form at this time to permit the Examiner an opportunity to reconsider the objection in view of the remarks in this Paper. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 8, 9, 18-23, 26-28, 37, 39, 40 and 44-46 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 24, 92, 97-102 and 104 of copending Application No. 10/825,486 (US Publication No. 2005/0083466), now allowed as of January 9, 2007. And, claims 1 and 8 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 of copending Application No. 10/824,612 (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0128406), which issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,177,001 on February 13, 2007. Applicant respectfully submits the claims of the present application are not obvious; however, to expedite prosecution in this application, Applicant files herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the double patenting rejections. Withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicant believes the foregoing remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to

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discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: February 23, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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